

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet for a hearing re Religious Liberty, during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 11 a.m., in SD-226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a markup on pending legislation.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 2 p.m., in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND DRINKING WATER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be granted permission to conduct a hearing on the recovery of salmon Wednesday, June 23, 1:30 p.m., hearing room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREST AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 23, for purposes of conducting a Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:15 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 503, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999; S. 953, the Terry Peaks Land Conveyance Act of 1999; S. 977, the Miwaleta Park Expansion Act; S. 1088, the Arizona National Forest Improvement Act of 1999; and H.R. 15 and S. 848, the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 23, 1999, at 11 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS OFFERED TO PAYNE STEWART

• Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to congratulate

Payne Stewart for his recent victory at this year's U.S. Open. Payne captured the championship with a dramatic 15-foot putt on the 72nd hole, the final hole of the tournament. Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Payne has continually brought an air of class and dignity to the game of golf that is a true inspiration to all Americans, myself included. In fact, his recent performance has inspired me to hit the greens again.

For his triumph in the tournament, Stewart drew strength from the memory of his late father, William Stewart, a two-time Missouri State Amateur Champion. On June 20, the final day of the U.S. Open and also Father's Day, NBC ran a special on the relationship between Payne and William Stewart. Taking the time to watch the special, Payne was moved to tears. This time of reflection may have provided the inspiration needed to make the difference in the tournament. I, too, had a father who was a major influence on my life. I, too, find strength and guidance in the moments I take to remember.

Payne Stewart is a credit to the game of golf and an example for all Missourians of what dedication and perseverance bring forth. With his second U.S. Open championship, he has shown the entire world that with enough determination and faith—coupled with a crucial putting tip from his wife—dreams really do come true. Again, I offer an enthusiastic congratulations.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BUFFALO SABRES, NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPS

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to the growing chorus of people congratulating the Buffalo Sabres for their outstanding performance in the Stanley Cup Finals. Led by team captain Michael Peca, and their indefatigable goalie, Dominik Hasek, the entire team accomplished what was thought by many to be the impossible. Their heartfelt play brought a level of excitement to the Stanley Cup finals not seen in years. I am proud to stand with the City of Buffalo and Western New York to honor our team.

Considered underdogs in all of their playoff series, the Sabres played with pure heart and soul to sweep the Ottawa Senators in the first round, defeated the Boston Bruins and then the Toronto Maple Leafs to win the Eastern Conference and the Prince of Wales Trophy for the first time in 24 years. The triple overtime loss in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals showed the hockey community what a team with determination and true grit is. The controversial goal that ended the dreams of the Sabres will not dampen the spirits of the most devoted fans in the world—Buffalo Sabres fans.

As the Stanley Cup Finals end, I extend my deep appreciation to the Knox Family for bringing the Sabres to Buffalo 29 years ago, John J. Rigas, owner and Chairman of the Board, Darcy Regier, General Manager, Lindy Ruff, Head Coach, and the entire Buffalo Sabres team, their coaching staff, their families and their fans for their great efforts and support. I know next season will bring even more to celebrate.

In this spirit, I ask that an article from The Buffalo News, be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Buffalo News, June 23, 1999]

RALLY FOR SABRES PROVES BUFFALO HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL

It was noon Tuesday and they streamed into Niagara Square from all directions. White-haired men and middle-aged ladies and mothers pushing strollers made the pilgrimage down Niagara Street, Franklin Street, Delaware Avenue.

They came, in all colors and sizes. Shirt-and-tie businessmen, smooth-skinned teens wearing black-and-red jerseys with Hasek or Peca stitched across the back, little kids holding their mother's hand. They came in cars, on bikes, on Rollerblades. They all came downtown, washed in the summer sun, because this is Buffalo and sometimes you win even when you lose.

They crowded in front of City Hall, more than 20,000 of them. Men in business suits climbed atop the marble railings of the McKinley Monument. Dozens stood on the roofs of the Federal Court Building and the Buffalo Athletic Center and the Turner Parking Ramp.

They do not have rallies for teams that lose in most cities.

Most cities are not Buffalo.

A lot of people around the country would read that and say "Thank God."

I ran into one of them on a plane to Dallas a couple of weeks ago. She said she was going home and asked where I was from. When I told her, she said, "Why would anybody want to live there?"

Lady, this is why.

Yes, there are things wrong with this place and I don't just mean high taxes. A streak of negativity runs through some folks. Our so-called leaders habitually put self-interest ahead of our interest. We get told we're the pits so often we sometimes forget this is a truly nice place to live.

But there's a sense of community here, a shared bond, you don't find in most other places, at least not most other places I've been. It's a hard thing to prove, but then a day like Tuesday comes and there it is, 20,000 people for all the world to see.

They didn't come to this rally for a hockey team that lost in the Stanley Cup finals because Buffalo loves a loser or likes to cry in its Genesee Cream Ale.

They came because this team carried the city's name on its jerseys the way we want it to be carried.

They came not to lament what might have been, but to celebrate what was.

The hockey team was a lot like the town, overlooked and underappreciated. Yet they left team after supposedly better team dazed and bleeding by the side of the road. They finally got beat—with the help of officials too gutless to enforce the rules—by a tough, character-laden Dallas team many expected would swat them aside like a bothersome fly. Instead, the Sabres took them to their limit, made them sweat and ache and pay for every